

Dr. Deborah J. Leong

Dr. Deborah J. Leong is professor emerita of Psychology at Metropolitan State College of Denver where she taught for 32 years. She is the director for the Center for Improving Early Learning, home of Tools of the Mind. She is also a research fellow at the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University. Dr. Leong has her Ph. D. from Stanford University, an M. Ed. from Harvard University and a B. A. from Stanford University. Dr. Leong developed Tools of the Mind approach with Dr. Bodrova with whom she has written numerous books and articles on the Vygotskian approach. Tools of the Mind was named an exemplary program by the International Bureau of Education at UNESCO, United Nations in 2001. Dr. Leong has also written extensively on authentic early childhood assessment with Dr. Oralie McAfee. Along with Drs McAfee and Bodrova, Dr. Leong wrote the “Basics of Assessment” which is NAEYC’s most popular book on assessment. She has served on the National Early Childhood Advisory Board for Scholastic Publishing, on the technical committee on curriculum for NAEYC to rewrite the accreditation standards, and on the committee that developed the NAEYC position statement on curriculum and assessment. She was a guest faculty member for 3 years for the Heads Up Reading series for the National Head Start Association. She was one of the faculty member presenters for NAEYC’s long distance education series on curriculum and assessment. Dr. Leong was a Fulbright Fellow to the University of Patagonia in Argentina in 1990.